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### Soil: Make the Invisible Visible

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This communication will focus on different soil perceptions by society. Human perception of soil is a paradox, since there is the obvious surface – and the nontransparent inside. And very different concepts exist of “windows to soil perception”: - Soil seen as a natural compartment, providing numerous ecosystem services to human societies. It is the “Dokuchaev soil” (D-Soil), the soil of soil scientists; - Soil seen as its economical and legal value, that is, a resource providing marketable goods and financial yields. It is the “soil capital” (F-Soil) described by economists, lawyers and politicians, but few of them consider soil as a natural capital for the welfare of the whole society; - Soil as a cultural issue (C-Soil), implying myths and religions, history, art, etc. It is often the soil of the general public, in some cultures it is also the soil of farmers. It is often observed that the word “soil” is polysemous, that is, it has a wide spectrum of meanings and is part of a larger “semantic field”. For communication between soil scientists and the general public it often has to be replaced by other words as earth, dirt, etc., or even considered in a broader dimension as land or terroir, sometimes even “the land of the ancestors” or similar. These observations lead to the fact that the “soil” – the D-Soil – of the soil scientists is hidden from people whose view is the F-Soil, and a large part of humanity is concerned with the C-soil. In the same way, F-Soil and C-Soil are often hidden to soil scientists. May we all learn to look through more than one window.



**Brazilian Soil Science  
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